

Mom, dad... I'm left-handed

Dear Mom,

This letter will doubtless find you in a good mood, at least I hope for it. It is a painful secret which I carried for years. I was not able, so far, to share it. And to say it face-to-face is for me too difficult. That is why this small letter will bring you the truth, my truth, the truth about me.

Here is: I am left-handed. I know that it is not easy to admit, but it is so. You are not responsible for that. It is the way it is. You certainly noticed that I often spoke about left-handed persons. Of course, I laughed at them, showing you how much I was proud to be right-handed. I even voted for somebody who defended the right-handed people against the left-handed persons in the society, somebody who opposed to the union of two left-handed persons; however, this person was not a right-extremist. It took me a long time to accept myself as left-handed, although I was that way since I was young. I had to bury it in me, to hide it to myself and to others. I built a fortress around me, so that the others would think I am a good right-hander. But I liked my left-hand better and could go anything about it.

I was right-handed with the right-handers, continuing to laugh at left-handed persons... We often saw our left-handed neighbour receiving other left-handed persons. One day, you said that you preferred that to a drunkard. Feel reassured, I am not a drunkard. Just a left-handed person. It took me time before I talk to you about it because being right-handed is considered as the standard in our society. Nevertheless, how would it without left-handed persons? Léonard de Vinci was left-handed, and nevertheless, his hand did not prevent him from being a genius. I see you asking you " but why is my son left-handed? ".

It's not your fault. Since I know how to use my hands, I feel more comfortable with my left hand. My right hand's purpose is only to make me look a certain way. My left hand's purpose is to enable me to be myself. I decided to apply Rochefoucauld's quote: " we would more win to be allowed to see ourselves such as we are, rather than to try to look what we are not ". (You see, the left-handed persons are cultivated all the same).

If you still have questions on "this", I could answer you, or you can talk to associations that help left-handed persons' families to accept the left-hander as he is.

Kisses, Matthew